

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SY-04 DRC-01

OMB-01 CU-04 /144 W

----- 093200

R 281146Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 070

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,HPK

SUBJECT: ANTI-AHMADIYA AGITATION

REF: LAHORE 0898

BEGIN SUMMARY: PUNJAB HAS BEEN FREE FROM SECTARIAN VIOLENCE DURING PAST WEEK BUT RELIGIOUS/POLITICAL ANTI-AHMADIYA AGITATION HAS CONTINUED. PUNJAB GOVERNMENT MANAGED TO OUTMANEUVER OPPOSITION IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY WHEN IT TRIED TO INITIATE DEBATE ON AHMADIYAS, AND ADJOURNED ASSEMBLY JUNE 28. MEANWHILE, MINOR LABOR UNREST HAS CONTINUED. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE NO INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE SURFACED IN PUNJAB SINCE JUNE 21, ULEMA, OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND STUDENTS HAVE CONTINUED TO AGITATE AGAINST AHMADIYAS. MAJLIS-Z-AMAL MOVED OUT OF CONGEN DISTRICT FROM MULTAN TO RAWALPINDI, IN ANTICIPATION OF DEBATE ON SECTARIAN ISSUE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. PRESIDENT OF PUNJAB UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNION (WHO BELONGY TO JAMAAT-P-ISLAMI STUDENT ORGANIZATION)

TOLD PRESS IN LAHORE THAT STUDENTS PLAN "MASSIVE" DEMONSTRATION IN ISLAMABAD JUNE 30. HE INDICATED STUDENTS WERE CONSIDERING GHERAO OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT OF JI STUDENT WING WAS ARRESTED IN LAHORE JUNE 27 FOR MAKING INFLAMMATORY SPEECH.

2. TEMPERATURE OF SECTARIAN DEBATE WAS INCREASED JUNE 27 WHEN ALL VERNACULAR PAPERS IN LAHORE HEADLINED STORY FROM LONDON THAT SIR CHAUDHRI ZAFRULLAH KHAN HAD AGAIN MADE STRONG STATEMENT DEFENDING AHMADIYAS . (ZAFRULLAH WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THOSE WHO WERE ATTACKING SECT WERE NOT MUSLIMS, AND THAT AHMADIYAS WOULD MAINTAIN THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN RABWAH EVEN IF IT MEANT FACING DEATH, HE REPORTEDLY ADMITTED HE HAD VISITED OLD AHMADIYA CAPITAL AT QADIAN IN INDIAN PUNJAB FROM MAY 1 TO 3, BUT SAID HE HAD NOT GONE THERE SECRETLY AND HAD RECEIVED WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM GOP INTERIOR MINISTER QAYYUM KHAN.) PUBLIC REACTION TO ARTICLES WAS ONE OF HEIGHTENED RESENTMENT, COUPLED WITH GROWING SUSPICION THAT AHMADIYAS HAVE SECRET SUPPORT OF "SOME FOREIGN POWER." AND ASSUREDLY DID NOT HELP IMAGE OF MINISTER QAYYUM, WHO IN ANY CASE IS NOT POPULAR WITH PUNJABIS.

3. SAMDANI TRIBUNAL HAS CONTINUED TO MEET, AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY HAS ONCE AGAIN REACHED PROVOCATIVE LEVEL. JUSTICE SAMDANI HAS AGREED TO ANTI-AHMADIYA LAWYER'S REQUEST THAT COURT SUBPOENA AHMADIYA FINANCIAL RECORDS FROM RABWAH. PRESUMING THERE ARE SUCH RECORDS. MATERIAL CONTAINED THEREIN COULD ADD FUEL TO CURRENT FIRES. LAWYER'S ARGUMENT WAS THAT RECORDS WOULD CONTAIN LISTS OF PERSONS WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO AHMADIYAS AND WOULD GIVE BETTER IDEA OF SIZE OF AHMADIYA POPULATION.

4. IN PUNJAB ASSEMBLY, OPPOSITION ATTEMPTED TO SUBMIT RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF THAT PASSED BY NWFP ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDING THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECLARE AHMADIYAS NON-MUSLIM MINORITY. LEADER OF OPPOSITION CLAIMED THAT RESOLUTION BORE SIGNATURES OF 70 MPAS INCLUDING MANY FROM GOVERNMENT BENCHES. (OPPOSITION HAS 38 MEMBERS IN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.) WHEN SPEAKER REFUSED TO ALLOW RESOLUTION TO BE INTRODUCED, OPPOSITION, EXCEPT FOR ONE MEMBER, STAGED WALKOUT. LEADER OF OPPOSITION THEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELD IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE AND GAVE PRESS NAMES OF MPAS WHO SIGNED RESOLUTION. EXPRESSED PARTICULAR ANNOYANCE THAT FORMER PUNJAB INFORMATION MINISTER , WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "OVERENTHUSASTIC" ANTI-AHMADIYA, HAD NOT JOINED WALKOUT. ON JUNE 28, GOVERNMENT WOUND UP DEBATE ON PROVINCIAL BUDGET, AND IMMEDIATELY MOVED FOR ADJOURNMENT, WHICH SPEAKER ACCEPTED OVER PROTESTS OF OPPOSITION.

5. PRESS CONTINUED TO CARRY INFLAMMATORY STORIES DURING WEEK, INCLUDING ONE ARTICLE IN JAMHOOR JUNE 21 DATED IN CHINIOT, IN WHICH CORRESPONDENT CLAIMED HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM KARACHI THAT AHMADIYAS WERE PURCHASING GOLD IN LOCAL MARKET WHICH WOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO NEW AHMADIYA HEAD-QUARTERS OUTSIDE PAKISTAN VIA BRITISH OR AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

6. ONLY RATIONAL COMMENT ON SECTARIAN ISSUE IN PRESS DURING PAST WEEK CAME FROM PUNJAB PPP GENERAL SECRETARY SYED NASIR ALI RIZVI, MNA FROM MULTAN, WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT TENOR OF OPPOSITION AGITATION. HE CALLED OPPOSITION THREAT TO GHERAO MNA'S EVIDENCE OF "FASCIST MENTALITY." RIZVI TOLD CONGEN LOCAL JUNE 28 THAT HE BELIEVED GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO DEFER DEBATE ON SECTARIAN ISSUE UNTIL AFTER BHUTTO'S RETURN FROM MOSCOW. HOWEVER, HE FEARED THAT IF THIS WERE DONE, IT WOULD PRECIPITATE VIOLENT REACTION FROM OPPOSITION.

7. LABOR AGITATION ALSO CONTINUED AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL DURING WEEK. AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS WORKERS STRIKE ENTERED 11TH DAY JUNE 28, WHEN GOP FINANCE MINISTER MUBASHIR HASSAN HELD MEETING WITH STRIKE LEADERS. LOCAL JOURNALISTS CONTINUED TO OFFER THEMSELVES FOR ARREST, AND NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION (INVESTIGATING CASE ABOUT WHICH JOURNALISTS ALL PROTESTING) SENTENCED IFUJ PRESIDENT TO SIX MONTHS IN JAIL FOR CONTEMPT. ASSISTANT EDITOR OF PAKISTAN TIMES TOLD US JUNE 27 THAT JOURNALISTS WERE CONVINCED THAT BHUTTO OPPOSED GIVING IN TO THEM BECAUSE HE WANTED TO KEEP PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER ON HIS TOES. (RAMAY USED TO BE EDITOR OF PAPER WHERE JOURNALISTS STRIKE STARTED, AND REPORTEDLY FAVORS REASONABLE SETTLEMENT, BUT RUMOR HAS IT BHUTTO FORBADE HIM TO ALLOW JOURNALISTS SALARIES TO BE RAISED.) NUMBER OF SMALLER STRIKES ALSO OCCURRED DURING WEEK.

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8. COMMENT: THINGS MAY WARM UP AGAIN AFTER CONCLUSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET SESSION.
GRIFFIN

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Message Attributes

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